

Message Text

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TAGS: NATO, MARR

SUBJECT:HOUSE AND SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
CONFERENCES

1. THE HOUSE AND SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES
COMPLETED CONFERENCE ACTION ON THE FY 1979 MILITARY
CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION REQUEST ON AUGUST 1.
MAJOR ITEM OF DIFFERENCE WAS THE 286 MILLION DOLLARS
OF CONSTRUCTION IN EUROPE DENIED BY THE STATE AND
APPROVED BY THE HOUSE. ALSO AT QUESTION WAS THE
SENATE'S PROPOSED FLAT PROHIBITION AGAINST FURTHER
PREFINANCING OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION IN EUROPE WHICH
WAS OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE UNDER CURRENT CRITERIA FOR INFRA-
STRUCTURE.

2. AS A RESULT OF CONFERENCE THE CONFEREES RESTORED
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AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

POMCUS	56.9 MILLION
AIRCRAFT SHELTERS	19.0 MILLION
AMMO STORAGE	50.8 MILLION
MANNHEIM FLIGHT SIMULATOR	1.7 MILLION
KEFLAVIK LIGHTING	4.2 MILLION

POWER PLANT, NEA MAKRI	.3 MILLION
AIR MANEUVER FACILITY, DECIMOMANU	1.0 MILLION
ILS, INCIRLIK	.5 MILLION
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, RAMSTEIN	6.5 MILLION
COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADE	2.0 MILLION
TACTUAL CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS	4.0 MILLION

TOTAL 146.9 MILLION DOLLARS

3. THE CONFERENCE DRAFT REPORT CONTAINS LANGUAGE WHICH INDICATES THAT THE ABOVE "FEW SUCH PROJECTS" HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN FY 1979 IN ORDER TO AVOID UNACCEPTABLE DELAYS IN READINESS RELATED PROJECTS AND TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR AN "ORDERLY TRANSITION" TO THE NEW AGREED CONGRESSIONAL POLICY THAT "FUTURE CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS IN NATO" FOR THE TRAINING OF INTERNATIONAL FORCES IN PEACETIME AND FOR THEIR OPERATIONAL USE IN WARTIME" (QUOTE FROM NATO FACTS AND FIGURES, NATO INFORMATION SERVICE, JANUARY 1976, PAGE 150) SHALL BE FUNDED THROUGH THE NATO INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM."

4. FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOLLOWS:

(QUOTE) "THE MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOUSE
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AND THE SENATE BILLS WAS THE ISSUE OF CONSTRUCTION IN SUPPORT OF THE U.S. FORCES COMMITTED TO NATO. WHILE THE HOUSE HAD SUPPORTED MOST OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION IN EUROPE, THE REPORT ON THE HOUSE BILL CONTAINED STRONG, DIRECTIVE LANGUAGE TO PURSUE FUNDING SOURCES OTHER THAN UNILATERAL U.S. APPROPRIATIONS. THE SENATE, ON OTHER HAND, SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED THE REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION IN EUROPE BY APPLYING THE PRINCIPLE THAT "NATO CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE PROVIDED THROUGH NATO RESOURCES WITHIN NATO-ESTABLISHED PRIORITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATO-ESTABLISHED CRITERIA."

"THE CONFEREES AGREE THAT TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE NATO OPERATIONAL MISSION AND READINESS OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE COMMON FUNDED BY THE ALLIANCE. THEREFORE, EXCEPT IN RARE, UNUSUAL SITUATIONS WHERE FULL AND CONVINCING JUSTIFICATION CAN BE SUPPLIED, FUTURE CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS IN NATO "FOR THE TRAINING OF INTERNATIONAL FORCES IN PEACETIME AND FOR THEIR OPERATIONAL USE IN WARTIME" (QUOTATION FROM NATO FACTS

AND FIGURES, NATO INFORMATION SERVICE, JANUARY 1976,
PAGE 150) SHALL BE FUNDED THROUGH THE NATO INFRASTRUCTURE

PROGRAM.

"HOWEVER, THE CONFEREES ALSO AGREE THAT THE
STRICT APPLICATION OF THIS CRITERIA TO THIS FY 1979
BILL MAY RESULT IN UNACCEPTABLE DELAY TO SELECTED,
READINESS-RELATED PROJECTS AND ACCORDINGLY, TO
PROVIDE AN ORDERLY TRANSITION, A FEW SUCH PROJECTS
HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE FINAL BILL. IN THE FUTURE
SUCH PROJECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR UNILATERAL U.S.
PREFINANCING ONLY ON AN EXCEPTION BASIS AND ONLY WITH
THE UNDERSTANDING THAT PRIOR TO THE START OF CONSTRUC-
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TION THERE MUST BE ALLIANCE AGREEMENT ON RECOUPMENT
WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME." (UNQUOTE)

5. THE FOREGOING POSITION OF CONGRESS REEMPHASIZES
THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURING A GREATLY EXPANDED INFRA-
STRUCTURE PROGRAM IN 1980-1984, AND ALSO MAKES IMPERA-
TIVE THE NECESSITY FOR CAREFUL SCREENING AND ASSIGN-
MENT OF HIGH MILITARY PRIORITY WITHIN FUTURE INFRA-
STRUCTURE PROGRAM TO FUTURE PROJECT SUBMISSIONS TIED
TO STRENGTHENING OF NATO AND LTDP. THE KEY LIES IN
THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE ABOVE QUOTE RELATIVE TO EARLY
RECOUPMENT, AND THIS IN TURN POINTS UP THE URGENCY
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED CRITERIA REVISIONS WHICH
WOULD PERMIT ELIGIBILITY OF MANY PLANNED PROJECTS
WHICH ARE CURRENTLY INELIGIBLE OR ONLY PARTLY ELIGIBLE.
WE SHOULD REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS WITHIN EUCOM AND COMPO-
NENT COMMANDS TO SPEED THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION
OF PROPOSED CRITERIA REVISIONS. FINALLY, AS AN INDI-
CATION OF THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR U.S. CONTRIBUTION
TO INFRASTRUCTURE THE CONFEREES AGREED ON AN AUTHORI-
ZATION OF 120 MILLION DOLLARS IN FY 1979, 130 MILLION MORE
THAN DOD REQUESTED. WHETHER THE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEES WILL PROVIDE FUNDS IS DOUBTFUL BUT IF SO,
THE ADDITIONAL MONIES COULD PROVE HELPFUL IN THE
PRESENT DOLLAR DEVALUATION SQUEEZE.

6. THIS IS A JOINT STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE.
CHRISTOPHER

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